

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5924

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Early Learning & K-12 Education, February 18, 2009

Title: An act relating to the running start program.

Brief Description: Changing Running Start provisions.

Sponsors: Senators McAuliffe, Oemig, Kilmer and McDermott.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Early Learning & K-12 Education: 2/09/09, 2/18/09 [DPS, w/oRec].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5924 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators McAuliffe, Chair; Kauffman, Vice Chair, Early Learning; Oemig, Vice Chair, K-12; King, Ranking Minority Member; Brandland, Hobbs, Holmquist, Jarrett, McDermott and Roach.

Minority Report: That it be referred without recommendation.

Signed by Senator Tom.

Staff: Susan Mielke (786-7422)

Background: Washington State has several dual enrollment/credit programs enabling high school students to simultaneously earn high school and college credit, including Running Start. Through this program 11th and 12th grade students take college courses at Washington's 34 community and technical colleges; Washington State, Eastern Washington, and Central Washington Universities; The Evergreen State College; and the Northwest Indian College. Students earn both high school and college credits for these courses. Students do not pay tuition but pay lab fees, textbooks, and transportation costs. The colleges or universities receive funds from the school district, although the district may retain up to 7 percent of the full-time equivalent (FTE) allocation to offset Running Start program-related costs.

Currently, the institutions of higher education that provide the Running Start program are statutorily prohibited from counting Running Start students for the purposes of determining

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whether the institution is meeting the enrollment targets imposed by the State upon the institutions.

Summary of Bill (Recommended Substitute): Institutions of higher education that provide the Running Start program must count Running Start students for the purposes of determining whether the institution is meeting the enrollment targets imposed by the state upon the institutions. By December 1, 2010, the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC), with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB), must make recommendations for long-term funding proposals to support Running Start, which may include student tuition and performance funding.

EFFECT OF CHANGES MADE BY EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION COMMITTEE (Recommended Substitute): The authorization for charging Running Start students fees is removed. The long-term funding proposals for Running Start will be developed by the SBCTC with OSPI and HECB.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 6, 2009.
[OFM requested ten-year cost projection pursuant to I-960.]

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This bill allows the community and technical colleges to count Running Start students so that our colleges can meet the targets established by the state. No new state money is required this biennium, but the bill directs the SBCTC to recommend long-term funding proposals. Running Start is a fabulous program but it is financially challenged. By charging minimal fees, and thereby requiring some financial responsibility by our students and families, they may make a more thoughtful decision as to whether the student is ready to participate in the program.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Chris Reykdal, SBCTC; Doug Asbjornsen, Superintendent Reardan, Edwall School District; Michelle Johnson, Chancellor, Pierce College; Nathaniel Anderson, Pierce College Running Start graduate.